

smaller than some that have been examined, as the following measurements, taken from the dried skins, will show. The fresh colors of the soft parts, the alar extent, and weight, noted by Mr. Henshaw before the specimens were skinned, are also given:—

*Larger specimen*: Wing, 32.00 inches; tail, 16.00; culmen, 1.50, depth of bill, 1.25, width, .95; length of head, from point of bill to occiput, 6.00; tarsus, 4.70; middle toe, 4.10, with claw, 5.45. Weight, 23 lbs.; spread of wings, 9 feet, 1 inch. "Head and neck light yellow, fading to pinkish on lower neck; iris reddish brown; feet dull bluish white."

*Smaller specimen*: Wing, 31.25 inches; tail, 15.50; culmen, 1.50, depth of bill, 1.20, width, .95; length of head, 6.20; tarsus, 4.40; middle toe, 4.00, with claw, 5.40. Weight, 20 lbs.; spread of wings, 8 feet, 9 inches. "Head and neck light orange; iris red; feet pinkish flesh color."

Since the above was put in type, four specimens in the flesh have been received at the National Museum. The weight, after their reception was not taken, on account of the specimens having been eviscerated; but they were carefully measured, with the following result:—

No. 103,064, *adult*, U.S. Nat. Mus.—Total length, 44 inches; extent of wings, 110.70 inches.

No. 103,065, *juv.* (first year).—Total length, 44.25 inches; extent of wings, 98.50 inches.

No. 103,066, *juv.* (first year).—Total length, 46.50 inches; extent of wings, 108.25 inches.

No. 103,067, *juv.* (first year).—Total length, 43.50 inches; extent of wings, 106 inches.

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## NOTE ON *SARCORHAMPHUS ÆQUATORIALIS* SHARPE.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

IN Volume I of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe describes, under the name *Sarcorhamphus æquatorialis* (p. 21), a supposed new species of Condor, to which the following characters were ascribed: "Smaller than *S. gryphus*; entirely brown in plumage; bill blackish." The habitat was given as Ecuador (Quito) and, with

a query. Colombia. The supposed new species was based in part on a specimen living (in 1873) in the Zoölogical Gardens at Amsterdam which was "apparently fully adult, with a perfectly formed erect wattle, but brown in colour all over," and partly on some statements made by Professor Orton in the 'Annals of Natural History' for 1871, pages 186, 187.

In a paper published in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' April, 1880, pp. 77-84, I called attention (on p. 81) to a Condor then living in the Central Park Menagerie, New York City, captured alive, when at least three months old, on Mount Cauquenes, Chili, received at the menagerie July 23, 1875, and which in December, 1878, or more than three years later, corresponded entirely with the *Sarcorhamphus æquatorialis* of Sharpe.

In the 'Proceedings' of the Zoölogical Society of London for 1883, page 349, Mr. Sclater mentions and figures (pl. xxxv) "a Condor from Peru, which had been presented to the Society by Mr. John J. North, on the 13th of June, 1877, and which was still living in the Society's Gardens." It is further stated that "after six years it was in nearly the same uniform brown plumage as that in which it had been originally received." Mr. Sclater, it was announced, "had now come to the conclusion that this must be a specimen of the '*Condor pardo*', or Brown Condor, spoken of by Mr. J. Orton, and subsequently named *Sarcorhamphus æquatorialis* by Sharpe in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the British Museum' (p. 21.)."

The excellent figure given represents a bird exactly like that in the Central Park Menagerie, when seen by me in December, 1878.

The Central Park specimen having recently died and been secured by the National Museum, the following account of its progressive changes in plumage may be of interest as deciding the status of *S. æquatorialis* :—

July 23, 1875.—Specimen received at the Central Park Menagerie, said to be at least three months old when captured. Plumage uniform snuff-brown, the head and neck similar, but darker, the bill blackish.

April 1, 1876.—Memorandum by Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence: "Condor, said to be 9 months [*i.e.*, 12 months] old, bill black; cere and naked sides of head grayish black; head sparsely covered with short downy feathers of a smoky black; plumage in general dark snuff-brown."

August 1877.—Memorandum by Mr. Lawrence: “No change, except the development of the ruff, which is colored like the back.”

December, 1878.—No appreciable change in plumage.

February 10, 1880.—Under this date, Mr. W. A. Conklin, Superintendent of the Central Park Menagerie, wrote me as follows:—“The plumage remains still unchanged, except that the ruff about the neck is somewhat fuller, and has a little sprinkle of white through the down . . . It has not increased since then [the date of its arrival at the Menagerie] either in size or weight. The bill is black at the base, the apical half ivory-white. Head bare; no wattles; iris dark brown.”

February 23, 1880.—Memorandum by Mr. Lawrence: “The ruff is now more full, but no appearance of becoming white; underneath [the surface ?] the feathers [of the ruff ?] are whitish.”

November 11, 1884.—The specimen to which the above remarks and memoranda appertain received in the flesh from Mr. Conklin, it having died a day or two previously. The plumage is now in all respects that of the adult common Condor (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*), the general color being black, with white ruff, and grayish white or pale gray wing-markings. No ‘comb,’ but throat with a slight ‘dewlap,’ and lower part of foreneck with a small pendulous wattle. Iris dark hazel; neck dirty yellowish white, slightly tinged with dull purplish flesh-color, the head more purplish; bill white, black at base, and dusky on culmen; feet blackish. Length, 45.50 inches; extent of wings, 103.25 inches; weight 17 lbs., the specimen in excellent condition. By dissection the bird proved to be a female.

After carefully weighing all the testimony, it therefore seems very doubtful whether more than one species of Condor exists in South America. It is quite likely, however, that this species (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*) varies in size or other characters in different parts of its range, and that therefore two or more geographical races or subspecies exist; but in all probability there does not exist in any museum sufficient material to determine this question.

At any rate, it would appear to be established beyond doubt that *Sarcorhamphus gryphus* is uniform brown when young, and that it wears this plumage until at least seven years old. It would seem, also, that the ‘comb,’ or erect wattle, peculiar to the male, is developed before the bird assumes the adult plumage, as is attested by the living specimen in the Amsterdam Zoölogical Garden, referred to by Mr. Sharpe.